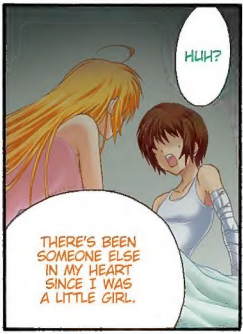
DRAGONAR
ACADEMY
ART BY
RAN
STORY BY
SHIKI MIZUCHI
3

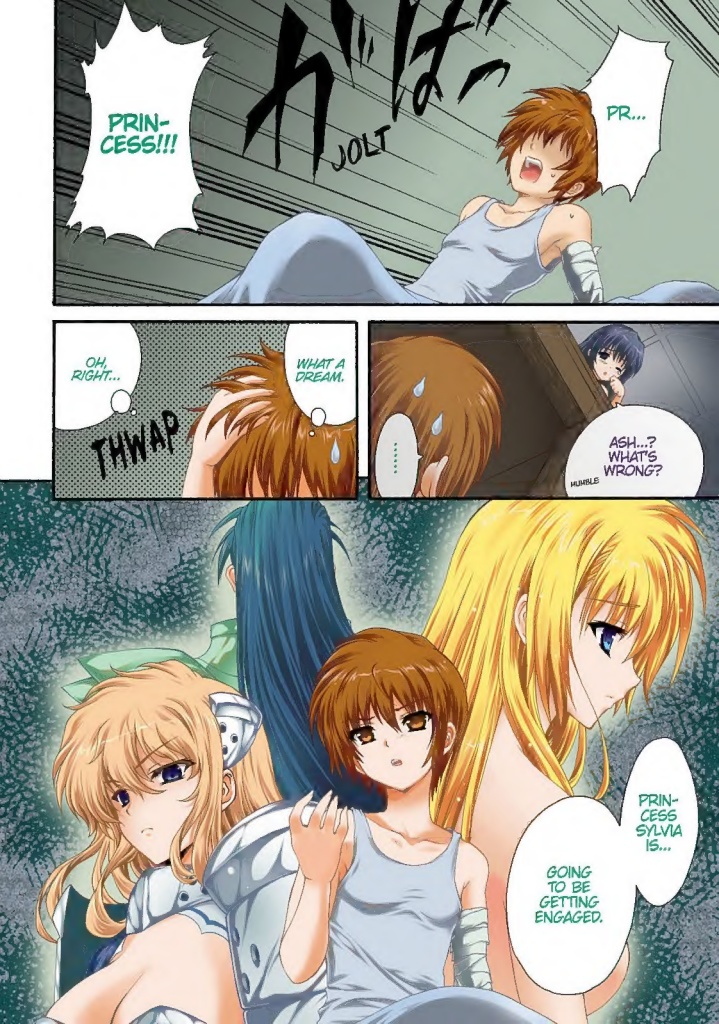
ASH...
I DON'T WANT TO BE ENGAGED!

HE'S --!


HUH?
THERE'S BEEN SOMEONE ELSE IN MY HEART SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.

Chapter XI
Veronica and Sylvia: Part 2

Chapter XI
Veronica and Sylvia: Part 2


PRIN-
CESS!!!
JOLT
PR...
OH,
RIGHT...
THWAP
WHAT A
DREAM.
.....
ASH...?
WHAT'S
WRONG?
MUMBLE
PRIN-
CESS
SYLVIA
IS...
GOING
TO BE
GETTING
ENGAGED.

ART
RAN

STORY
SHIKI MIZUCHI

CHARACTER DESIGN
KOHADA SHIMESABA

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

DRAGONAR ACADEMY VOLUME 3

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DRAGONAR ACADEMY VOL. 3
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Edited by MEDIA FACTORY.
First published in Japan in 2012 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.
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ISBN: 978-1-626920-45-3

Printed in Canada

First Printing: August 2014

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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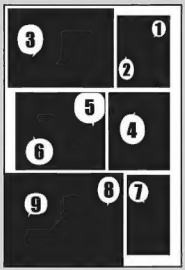
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



Dragonar Academy
Cast of Characters

A first-year Senios (upperclassman) at Ansullivan Dragonar Academy. He has the gift of riding any dragon. He's partnered with the young dragon Eco.

Despite her appearance, Eco is a dragon--and Ash's Steed! She's young and inexperienced, but was still able to craft an Ark for him.

The fourth princess of the Knightdom of Lautreamont. Known as the Ice Blue Princess, she is partnered to the Maestro dragon Lancelot.

A third-year student at Ansullivan Dragonar Academy, and president of the student council. She's the school's most gifted Dragonar, and rides the Maestro dragon Cúchulainn. She's called the Scarlet Empress.

The first princess of the Knightdom of Lautreamont, and Sylvia's eldest sister. She is a tremendous hero, and is called the Iron Blooded-Valkyrie. She takes pride in her status as an unequaled, undefeated warrior.

A soldier from the Zepharos Empire, Milgauss attacked Ash during the Dragonar Festival of Aries. His true identity and motivations are shrouded in mystery.

A girl who works alongside Milgauss. As an operative for the Empire's intelligence service, she is currently undercover in the knightdom.

DRAGONAR ACADEMY
THE STORY SO FAR
"IS THIS IT? AM I ABOUT TO DIE? LIKE THIS...? WITHOUT EVER MEETING MY DRAGON...? I KNOW MY DRAGON'S ALIVE, BUT I CAN'T EVEN HELP IT BE BORN...!"
CLENCH
FLICKER
Ansullivan Dragonar Academy: a school for boys and girls who've made pacts with dragons! Ash Blake is a student at the academy, but he's an embarrassment to the school--even though he has a Star Mark (the symbol of his pact), his dragon has yet to be born.
While Ash was participating in the Dragonar Festival of Aries, he was attacked and nearly killed by a man who seemed to be an imperial soldier. Ash managed--barely--to evade the attack, but lost his footing and tumbled down into a deep ravine.

SMILE
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S A GOD...
OR A MON...
"YOU ARE NOT MY KEEPER! I AM YOUR KEEPER!!!"
With Ash moments away from death, his Steed finally awakens. However, unlike all the other students' Steeds, Ash's dragon, who he names Eco, has the shape of a young human girl.
Ash and Eco try to settle into daily life together, but their efforts are thwarted when the town is attacked by a Necromancia! Ash, armored by the Ark Eco created for him and wielding the holy blade Aix-les-Bains, is able to counter the Necromancia's assault and protect Ansullivan!
FWOO

星刻の竜騎士

A TRADITIONAL DISPLAY PUT ON FOR ROYALTY AND TITLED NOBILITY...
A ROUSING FORM OF CRICKET PLAYED ON DRAGON-BACK!
ALL RIGHT!!
GOOD ONE, PRINCESS!!
HUSH. YOU'RE FAR TOO LOUD.
.....

URK.
IF I'M NOT CAREFUL, I'LL BE IMAGINING THAT DREAM...

GLENN, CAPTAIN OF THE ELITE GUARD.
HE'S AN ARK DRAGONAR, AND SOON HE'LL BE BETROTHED TO PRINCESS SYLVIA.

NOW THAT I THINK OF IT--

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
WELL, THEN, YOU MIGHT WISH TO READY YOURSELF.
FOR WHAT?

LOST IN THOUGHTS OF YOUR STEED?
HUH? ER... YES...

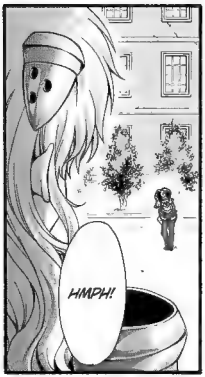
HERE YOU ARE!
.....
SO YOU'VE BEEN GOOFING OFF AND LEAVING ME ALL ALONE, HUH?!
.....
MOVE IT! WE'RE GONNA PLAY TOO!
UH... HOW'S THAT, NOW?
STOP AND THINK FOR A SEC, ECO.
AHEM.
PLAYING CRICKET MEANS RIDING A STEED, SO...
ASH, YOU MONGREL!!!
WHAM
GAH!

MENTAL PICTURE
Here I go...
AHHHH...
JOHN
LIM, ECO?
HELLO..?
LIGH, I HATE THIS!
WHY DID I HAVE TO BE BORN THIS WAY?
GRIND
OBVIOUSLY IT WOULD WORK LIKE THIS!!
HOW DARE YOU, YOU MANGY DOG!!!
GRIND
NO WAY IN HELL!!
HOW THE HECK WOULD WE COMPETE WITH OTHER DRAGONS LIKE THAT?!

ECO...
AAAAHHHHH!!
SLAM
Rebecca and Cúchulainn strike back hard!
Princess Sylvia and Lancelot have been knocked off the pitch!
RUSH
PRIN-CESS !!!
HMM... HE'S GOT GUTS, DOESN'T HE? LOOK AT HIM RUSHING DOWN TO HER.
HMPH!
WELL, NATU-RALLY HE DOES!
ALTHOUGH, I DON'T THINK HE'S HAD A LICK OF EXPERI-ENCE WITH WOMEN.

MENTAL PICTURE
ONE GLANCE AT MY NAKED BODY LEFT HIM COMPLETELY FLUSTERED.
WH-WH-WHY WERE YOU NAKED AROUND HIM?!
THAT'S FOR ADULTS TO KNOW...
NOT BABIES LIKE YOU WHO REEK OF PISS.

YOUR HIGH-NESS.
THAT BOY IS MOVING YOUR SISTER---


HMPH!

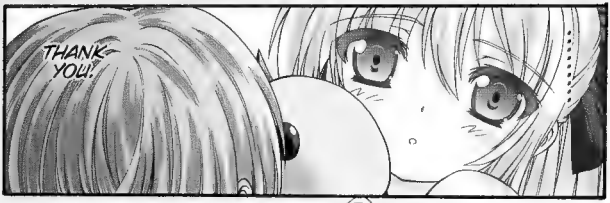
POINT
WELL? BACK TO THE MATCH, YOU LOT!
IT'S ONLY JUST BEGUN!
MY BABY SISTER'S INCOMPE-TENCE IS HARDLY WORTH STOPPING OVER!!

……

ARE YOU HURT?
HEY, YOU!

……
FMP
SO I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR HELP.
I-IF I WANT TO BE A DRAGONAR, I HAVE TO BE AS PROUD AND STRONG AS THEY ARE--!
I'LL CARRY YOU! LET'S GO FIND THE MOTHER DRAGON!
ALL RIGHT, THEN!

BUT AS LONG AS YOU GET BACK UP AND TRY AGAIN...
THERE'S NO REASON FOR IT TO DAMAGE YOUR PRIDE.
LOOK, PROUD OR NOT, EVERYBODY WIPES OUT SOMETIMES.
HERE, TAKE CARE OF THIS.


THANK YOU!

I'M IN MY BED-ROOM ...?
I'M...
NNNH...

WH-WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN MY ROOM?!
OH, I'M THE ONE WHO CHANGED YOUR CLOTHES. ♡
AND THIS ISN'T WHAT I WAS WEARING --!!
ASH --?!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
CARRIED ME...?
TH-THMP
TH-THMP
HE... CARRIED ME?
WELL, I HAD TO! I TOOK YOU TO THE SCHOOL DOCTORS, BUT THEY KICKED US OUT!
THEY SAID YOU WEREN'T HURT BAD ENOUGH FOR THEM TO DO ANYTHING, AND THEY COULDN'T AFFORD TO GIVE YOU SPECIAL TREATMENT EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE ROYALTY!
BUT ASH WAS THE ONE WHO CARRIED YOU ALL THE WAY HERE, PRINCESS.
WHAT?

WH-WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING SO SILLY?!
DID YOU EVEN CONSIDER HOW IT WOULD HURT MY PRIDE?!
PRIDE, SCHMIDE. YOU CAN JUST GET BACK OUT THERE AND WIN IT BACK!
TWITCH
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
SO OF COURSE I HELPED !!

HOW CAN HE REMIND ME OF THAT BOY--?!
OF ALL PEOPLE...!
TH-THMP
TH-THMP
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.

LOOK, WE BOTH KNOW LANCELOT'S INCREDIBLE.
BUT YOU WERE UP AGAINST REBECCA AND CUCHULAINN. THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD TAKE THEM ON.
YOU... YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT WAS CARELESS OF ME.
TEE HEE! OUR PRINCESS WANTED TO SHOW OFF IN FRONT OF PRINCESS VERONICA, THAT'S ALL!
TH... THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
OR... MAYBE IT IS TRUE.
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO HOLD MY HEAD UP HIGH AROUND MY SISTER.
WHAT WAS I REALLY TRYING TO PROVE OUT THERE...?

!!
IT'S SIR GLENN MCGUIRE.
KNOCK KNOCK
YOU HAVE A VISITOR, PRINCESS.
HMM? WHO MIGHT THAT BE?
YOUR ROYAL SISTER SENT ME TO ASK AFTER YOUR HEALTH.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, SIR GLENN?
FORGIVE MY INTRUSION...
PRINCESS SYLVIA.
I'M QUITE WELL, THANK YOU.
SIR GLENN...
I REMEMBER THOSE LONG-AGO DAYS WHEN HE AND MY BROTHER, JULIUS, PLAYED WITH ME.

HE HAD A VIVID PERSONALITY AND WAS ALWAYS KIND.
HE AND MY BROTHER WERE BOTH FRIENDS AND RIVALS.
BUT, AFTER MY BROTHER'S EXECUTION TEN YEARS AGO...
SIR GLENN FELL INTO DESPAIR. ALL THAT SAVED HIS SANITY WAS MY SISTER, DEMANDING BETTER OF HIM.
I SEE. I'LL LET HER KNOW.
AT NOON TOMORROW, WE WILL BE PAYING OUR RESPECTS TO DISASTER VICTIMS.
AND THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE.
.....
SINCE THEN, HIS EXPRESSION HAS ALWAYS BEEN EMPTY.
BUT DESPITE THAT, HIS SMILE NEVER RETURNED.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
YOU ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE THERE.
IN OTHER WORDS, MY PRESENCE IS REQUIRED SO WE CAN SHOW THE POPULACE OUR APPRECIATION, HMM?
NO.
TOMORROW, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO...
VISIT THE CHURCH OF ST. VALERIA AND OFFER PRAYERS OF REPENTANCE.
WH-WHAT ...?

I'M NOTHING MORE THAN A MESSENGER PIGEON.
THAT SHE WANTS ME TO DO PENANCE LIKE SOME SORT OF NUN.
MY SISTER IS SO CONTEMPTUOUS OF MY DISGRACE TODAY...
HA HA... I SEE.
PRINCESS --
HAVE YOU HEARD... ABOUT OUR BETROTHAL?
SIR GLENN... UM...
I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE OF YOU.
I HAVE.
WAIT!!
THIS IS MARRIAGE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT! BINDING OUR WHOLE LIVES TOGETHER! BUT HE...
HE'S SO BLUNT AND COLD ABOUT IT.

VERY WELL. YOU'RE DISMISSED.
HIGH-NESS.
GOSH, MESSENGER PIGEONS SURE ARE UNPLEASANT, HUH?
GRAB
YOU'D DO WELL TO STEP ASIDE.

THAT'S SOME ATTITUDE YOU'VE GOT THERE.
ASH --?!!
SQUEEZE
DID THE MISTAKE SHE MADE EARLIER SEEM IN CHARACTER TO YOU?
BETWEEN YESTERDAY AND TODAY, THE PRINCESS HAS BEEN DEALING WITH A LOT.
.....
AND THE BE-TROTHAL ...
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY FEELINGS OF YOUR OWN ABOUT IT?!
YOU'VE KNOWN HER AN AWFUL LOT LONGER THAN I HAVE!
AREN'T YOU EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT WORRIED ABOUT HER?!

WHAT IF PRINCESS VERONICA ORDERED YOU TO DIE?!
SO YOU'LL DO ANYTHING YOU'RE TOLD?!
I AM A KNIGHT. MY MASTER'S WILL IS ABSOLUTE.
THEN I'D DIE.
ASH !!
SHOVE

NORMALLY, I WOULDN'T CARE IF YOU'RE SOME KIND OF PUPPET...
BUT...
I CAN'T SIT BACK AND JUST WATCH YOU BEING SO CALLOUS AND INDIFFERENT WHILE YOU TALK...
ABOUT STUFF THAT'S HURTING THE PRINCESS!!
TH-THMP
ASH --!
GRAB
CLENCH

FEEL FREE TO BE FULL OF YOURSELF FOR SAVING THE TOWN.
YOU KNOW, LUCK IS AS MUCH A SKILL AS ANYTHING ELSE.
HOWEVER...
LEARN YOUR PLACE!
glance
.....

ALL MY LIFE, EVEN THINKING ABOUT HOW IMPRESSIVE AND OVERWHELMING SHE IS HAS MADE ME COWER!
MY SISTER HAS ALWAYS DONE AMAZING THINGS, LIKE SAVING SIR GLENN.
AM I GOING TO SPEND MY LIFE BEING BUFFETED AND CONTROLLED BY HER WHIMS?
BUT HOW LONG CAN I LET THAT GO ON?
I HAVE SO MANY FEELINGS RIGHT NOW...!

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

星刻の竜騎士

Chapter XII

Audocha the Executioner: Part 1

AFTER SCHOOL..
ALL RIGHT...
EXCUSE ME!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN THIS LONG SINCE I LAST WORE MY UNIFORM.

HUH?!
OPEN
E-ECO?!!
NNH...

WH-WH-WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?!
YOU...
WHA... TOOK YOU S'LONG ...?
rub
rub
LICK
OW ...!
ECO, YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD!
WRAP
?!

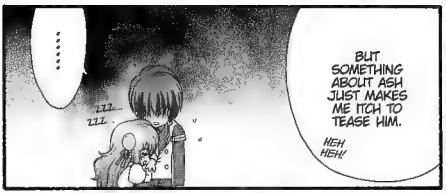
URK ...!
ECO, DID YOU MAYBE--
MY WHOLE BODY...
IS SO HOT ...!
I CAN SMELL... ROSES? IT'S FAMILIAR--!
OKAY...
SHOVE
NOOO --!
YOU!
OPEN UP AND LET ME SEE!!

IS THIS...
ENOUGH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I MEANT OPEN YOUR MOUTH, NOT LIFT YOUR DRESS!
AW...!
OH, FINE. HERE.
open
!!
ANSAR CANDY--! THOUGHT SO!
SPIT THAT OUT! HURRY!
MMM... 'KAY...
NNH...
!!

THERE, I SPIT IT OUT.
HEE HEE!
SLRRP
WAS... WAS THAT...
E- ECO...
THE FIRST TIME FOR BOTH OF US...?
H- HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?
MUMBLE ...
THAT WASN'T A TERRIBLY APPROPRIATE INTERACTION...
BETWEEN A HUMAN AND A DRAGON, WAS IT?
SINCE ECO BOLTED OUT OF THE ROOM.
"ALL ALONG," YOU MEAN!
RE- BECCA ?!

AND SO YOU KNOW, SHE'S WEARING MY PANTIES.
HUH ?!
ACK!
TH-THMP
VIVID IMAGINATION


BUT SOMETHING ABOUT ASH JUST MAKES ME ITCH TO TEASE HIM.
HEH HEH!
.....
ZZZ... ZZZ

UH, MADAM PRESI-DENT ...
I KNOW, MAX.

NOW, THEN!
PRINCESS VERONICA WILL BE TOURING ANSULLIVAN TO COMFORT THE TOWNS-FOLK THIS AFTERNOON.

AND WE, AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ACADEMY'S STUDENT BODY, WILL ACCOMPANY HER.
BUT PRINCESS SYLVIA'S STILL LEFT OUT, HUH?
WHAT ABOUT PRINCESS SYL--
YOU DO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, DON'T YOU, ASH?
THIS IS SOMETHING SYLVIA NEEDS TO GET THROUGH.
SO YOU AND I WILL DO OUR VERY BEST FOR HER SAKE TODAY!
OUR VERY BEST ...?
AVDOCHA...
FIRST, YOU NEED TO SEE THAT.
TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT HER WANTED POSTER.
THE EXECUTIONER?
WANTED

LATER THAT DAY.
LOOK! IT'S HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, PRINCESS VERONICA!
COMING ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE...
NOOOO.. MY CREPE SHOP ...!
ACK! SORRY! IT COULDN'T BE HELPED.
UGH...
HA HA...
Eeeeep!
QUIT YOUR DAWDLING AND GET BACK TO WORK, YOU LOT!!
I'M NOT HERE TO GIVE YOU AN EXCUSE FOR SLACKING!!!

AVDOCHA THE EXECUTIONER IS...
AN INFAMOUS DISSIDENT FROM THE TANTAROS TRIBE WHO WANTS TO TEAR DOWN THE ESTABLISHMENT.
There, there...
Sob...
BUT...
AFTER A FAILED ATTEMPT ON VERONICA'S LIFE SINCE THEN, IT SEEMS SHE'S BEEN IN HIDING.
SHE VANISHED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH FIVE YEARS AGO...
I CAN'T HELP WORRYING ABOUT PRINCESS SYLVIA, TOO.
WE CAN'T IGNORE THE POSSIBILITY THAT AVDOCHA MIGHT MAKE ANOTHER ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.
THE PRINCESS'S ACTIVITIES ARE A PERFECT WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY FOR A TERRORIST!

.....
HIMPH! OH, FINE!
BUT IF I DO THAT...
YOU'VE GOT TO BUY ME TEN CREPES!
YOU GOT IT!
CAN I COUNT ON YOU TO SUMMON THE ARK AGAIN?
IF SOMETHING GOES SERIOUSLY WRONG...
HEY, ECO.
YES?

AN EXPLO-SION?!
KA-BOOOOM
THAT'S ...!
THE BELFRY OF ST. VALERIA'S ...!!

PRIN-
CESS!!!
WAIT,
ASH
--!!
AS
OF NOW,
WE'LL BE
USING THE
SILVANUS
AS OUR
BASE OF
OPERA-
TIONS!
LET'S
WITHDRAW
TO THE
SILVANUS
TO RE-
GROUP.
AGREED.

PUT IT THROUGH.
I'M ITCHING FOR A FIGHT! AREN'T YOU, GLENN?
.....
HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM ABOUT ALL THIS?!
YOUR SISTER IS IN THAT CHURCH! AREN'T YOU WORRIED?!!
UUUU

Flicker
MMMM
Heh! Can you hear me...
Princess Veronica?
YOU'RE SO NAÏVE.
IF YOU ALLOWED YOUR EMOTIONS TO CONTROL YOU LIKE THIS WHEN THE NECROMANCIA ATTACKED...
THEN YOUR VICTORY TRULY WAS NOTHING BUT SHEER LUCK.
……!!
CRACKLE
Heed the words of the one who'll soon claim your life!

AVDOCHA THE EXECUTIONER?
AH. I RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT...
Oh, I don't even have to announce myself?
Let's cut to the chase, then.
WH--?!
IS THAT THE CHURCH'S INTERIOR? THERE'S SO MUCH STATIC...
WHERE'S PRINCESS SYLVIA...?
FLICKER
Feast your eyes on this!!

WHAT ...?
IS... IS THAT --?!
PRIN-CESS!
THERE'S SOMEONE TIED TO THE WING CROSS!!
IS ALL THAT CLUTTER AROUND THE ALTAR MECHANI-CAL...?
.....!

The head of Valkyrie!
JESSI-
CA?!!

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

星刻の竜騎士

SAINT VALERIA...
Chapter XIII
Avdocha the Executioner: Part 2
I BEG FORGIVENESS FOR MY RASHNESS AND HASTY ACTIONS.
SAINT VALERIA...

I BEG YOU, HEAR MY PRAYER! LET ME ONE DAY BE IMPREGNATED BY THE SILVER KNIGHT!
SNORT
Y-YOU---!
ffmmd
EEEP!
WHAT KIND OF PRAYER IS THAT?!
WAIT--- YOU'RE JESSICA VALENTINE!
OW---! HUH?
WHY, IF IT ISN'T HER HIGHNESS.
I WOULD'VE THOUGHT YOU'D BE ACCOMPANYING YOUR ROYAL SISTER AROUND TOWN!
.....
HMPH!
?
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU!!

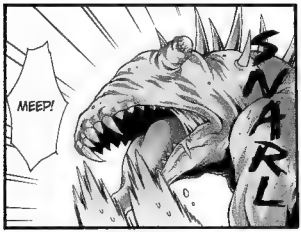
HA!
IF YOU GET ALL HUNG UP ON TINY DETAILS LIKE THAT, YOU'LL NEVER, EVER LIVE UP TO PRINCESS VERONICA'S EXAMPLE!
AHHH--!
STAB
A-ANYWAY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
OFFERING A PRAYER FOR EASY CHILD-BIRTH--
VALERIA IS THE PATRON SAINT OF THE LAW!!
WHAT?!
HA!
AS IF A SERVANT OF HOUSE RANDALL IS IN ANY POSITION TO LECTURE ME!
H-HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!
BLANCH
WH...
WHY, YOU--!
ARE YOU HONESTLY GOING TO CLAIM THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY AFFECTATIONS AT ALL?!!
SCREECH!
!!
WELL-- WELL, IN THAT CASE...
THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOLD ME TO USE IT WHEN YOU ACT HAUGHTY!
GRIT
Rebecca?!
YOU'D DO WELL TO STOP TRYING TO BOLSTER YOUR POSITION BY PUTTING ON AN ACT!

TH... THAT'S--
KA-BOOOOM
!!
EEEEEK!
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
GAH --!

CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
.....!!
tremble
tremble
OH!
.....
NO!!!
AAAAHHH!
DID... DID YOU JUST--?!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! THAT WAS --!
ANYWAY, WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS WHATEVER CAUSED THAT EXPLOSION--
CLOMP
HUH?
.....

LOOM
HUH ?!!
LONG AND LONG AGO...
FSH
SAINT VALERIA SPOKE UNTO US.
"DESPISE SIN, BUT NOT THE ONE WHO COMMITS THAT SIN."

FWP
SUCH NON-SENSE!
I AM AVDOCHA THE EXECU-TIONER, AND I SHALL BRING SWIFT DEATH UNTO ALL THE SINNERS OF THE WORLD!!
WHEN THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL LIES IN THE WEAKNESS OF OUR HEARTS!
TINY
HER?
.....?
AV... AVDOCHA THE EXECU-TIONER?!
THE TER-RORIST ...?!!


SNARL
MEEP!

SHE LOOKS A LOT MORE... LIM... MATURE IN HER PICTURES.
THAT'S, UH, NOT QUITE HOW I VISUALIZED HER...

CERTAINLY NOT.
THIS CHURCH IS NOW UNDER MY CONTROL...
AND YOU ARE ALL MY HOSTAGES.

PLEASE LET US OUT!
CLANK

I'VE CERTAINLY HEARD THAT TROUBLE FOLLOWS YOU AROUND...
BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE SO SEVERE.

GRACIOUS ME.

YOUR SACRIFICE WILL ALLOW ME TO FINALLY CLAIM PRINCESS VERONICA'S HEAD!
.....!

SHE...
SHE DOESN'T SEEM AFRAID AT ALL ANYMORE!
I KNOW I WAS HARSH EARLIER, BUT I DO FEEL FOR YOU, YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A DIFFICULT OLDER SISTER.
I COUNT TEN TERRORISTS ALTOGETHER.
AND THAT CREATURE SERVING AS HER MOUNT IS...
IF SHE'S RIDING IT SO CASUALLY...
SHE REALLY MUST BE AVDOCHA!
A BASILISK.
ITS NEAREST RELATIVE AMONG THE DRAGONS WOULD BE AN EARTHIA, BUT IT LACKS A DRAGON'S INTELLIGENCE. IT IS, HOWEVER, ONE OF THE MOST FEROCIOUS BEASTS IN THE WORLD.

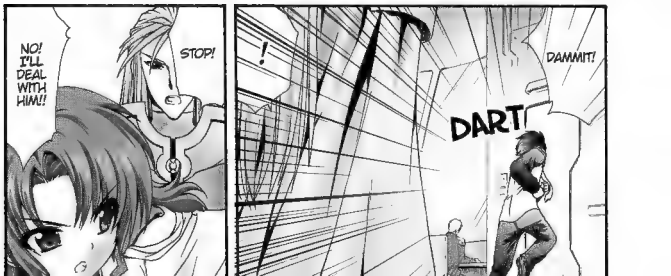
THE BUILDING IS TOO SMALL AND CROWDED FOR ME TO SUMMON MY DRAGON.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR DRAGON CRYSTAL?
I DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING WITH ME.
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS...
REVEAL MY IDENTITY AND DEMAND THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA HERE, OKAY?
I JUST DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF SURVIVING THIS THROUGH...
YOU MAKING SOME NOBLE SACRIFICE.
AFTER ALL...
I'M JESSICA VALENTINE!
YOU--

NATTERING AWAY DESPITE YOUR CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES...?
YOU CERTAINLY HAVE SOME GALL.
!!
VMMM
I'LL REWARD YOUR RECKLESSNESS...
BY GRANTING YOU A MOST VITAL ROLE.
CREAK
RIP
TAKE HER AWAY.
GRAB
JESSICA!!!

Ha ha ha!
Behold, Veronica!!
The head of Valkyrae!
Look at these!
Mechanical explosives from the empire!
But that's not all!
HMPH!
I SEE THE YEARS HAVEN'T IMPROVED HER TASTE.
IS... IS THAT...
JESSICA ?!!

WHAT ?!
I don't plan to give you much time to consider your options
Not a stone of this church will remain standing
Should they detonate...
I'M TERRIBLY IMPATIENT, YOU SEE.
EVERY TIME THE CHURCH BELL TOLLS, MY BASILISK WILL DEVOUR A HOSTAGE.
IT'S AN UNUSUALLY DULL PLAN FOR AVDOCHA, BUT VERY WELL.
PREPARE THE MAIN BATTERY!
PRINCESS VERONICA!! WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?!
HMM.
BLIP
I'll stop once I receive your freshly-severed head! Ha ha ha!!

!!
IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE MORE TROUBLE THAN IT'S WORTH...
ASH ...?
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS OBLITERATE THE CHURCH BEFORE SHE DOES.
BUT IT REALLY IS A SIM-PLISTIC PLAN...
ESPECIALLY FOR THE LIKES OF AVDOCHA THE EXECU-TIONER.


NO! I'LL DEAL WITH HIM!!
STOP!
!
DART
DAMMIT!

I HAVE A PROPOSAL TO SUGGEST.
IF YOU'LL HEAR ME OUT...
AND, PRINCESS...

FOR OUR NOBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO... SUBDUING TERRORISTS.
GRIT
IS THAT SO...?
IT WAS NO GREAT HARDSHIP, ESPECIALLY SINCE...
THIS WILL HELP MAKE A NAME FOR MY HOUSE-- FOR HOUSE VALENTINE...
HEH!
YOU CAN'T HAVE ENJOYED THAT, BUT YOU DID WELL.

YOU'RE FAR MORE WORTHY THAN MOST PEOPLE HONORED AS "NOBILITY."
I MISJUDGED YOU!!
JESSICA...!
A GUEST ...?
A NEGOTIATOR FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL?
.....!
MEANWHILE, I'M THE EXACT OPPOSITE.
WHAT WILL I DO? AM I GOING TO STAND BY AND DO NOTHING AGAIN, WHILE OBEYING MY SISTER'S WHIMS?

A CUNNING MOVE, VERONICA!
ASH !!!
VERY WELL! LET THEM IN!!
CLACK
I'M ASH BLAKE, FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL'S GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.
HA! AND WHAT ARE YOU HERE TO NEGOTIATE, LITTLE BOY?

WAIT.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. FOR SOME REASON, I'M BARELY STRESSING ABOUT THIS ANYMORE.
HE DIDN'T BRING ECO WITH HIM.
AND HAVING HIM COME HERE ON HIS OWN JUST MAKES ME WORRY EVEN MORE--

THAT'S NOT WHY.
NO.
WHY AM I FEELING THIS WAY...?
BUT THEN...
AND CAN WIELD AN ARK DRAGONAR'S POWER, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY TEMPORARILY?
IS IT BECAUSE HE'S THE SILVER KNIGHT...

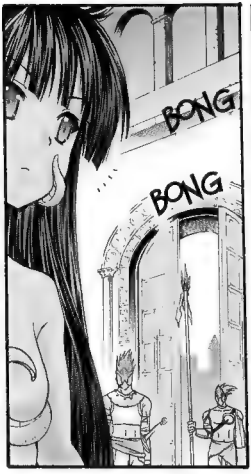
IS THAT HOSTAGE SAFE?
SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS, BUT OTHERWISE HALE AND WHOLE.
YOU DO KNOW YOU'RE GONNA DIE LIKE A DOG IN HERE, RIGHT?
PRINCESS VERONICA WILL BRING THIS PLACE DOWN ON YOUR HEAD WITH THE SILVANUS.
FRET
WH-WHAT ?!!
PRINCESS VERONICA IS GOING TO SACRIFICE US?!
AND YOU'RE ONLY A CHILD.
WHAT KIND OF NEGOTIATOR MAKES HOSTAGES MORE ANXIOUS?
QUIET DOWN!!
VHHP
YOU'RE FOOLS, ALL OF YOU!!!
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ME.
I WON'T DIE HERE--- NOT WHEN I STILL HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER TO FIND.

THIS IS NO GOOD.

THERE'S MORE GOING ON HERE THAN I UNDER-STAND.
GIVEN THE SITUATION, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SHE FOUND OUT I'M VERONICA'S SISTER...?

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
SHE TOO SHOULD KNOW THE PAIN OF BEING SEPARATED FROM BELOVED KIN!!
AND THAT'S AN EXPERIENCE I WANT VERONICA TO SHARE!

HEH!
NOOO !!!
I SEE IT'S FEEDING TIME FOR MY BASILISK!!


BONG
BONG

SHUDDER

STOP!!
!
TOPPLE
UNH!!
CRINGE
SNARL
YOU MUST BE STARVING BY NOW!
ENJOY YOUR LITTLE SNACK.
!
ROLL
CLNK
A PEBBLE...?
ASH...?
STAND UP, WHELP!
HE NOTICED ME...?

DON'T WORRY!
LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME.
THIS IS SO STUPID!
THE PEOPLE AROUND ME...
ALWAYS MANAGE...
TO MAKE ME FEEL SO MISERABLE!
THEY MAKE ME HATE MYSELF.
IF YOU'RE GONNA KILL SOMEONE, KILL ME!!!

I AM SYLVIA, FOURTH PRINCESS OF THE KNIGHTDOM OF LAUTREAMONT!
I COMMAND YOU TO RELEASE THAT HOSTAGE!!
THEY MAKE ME LOATHE MYSELF FOR BEING THIS WAY--!
STOP RIGHT THERE.

WHAT --?!
PRINCESS, NO!!
PRIN-CESS...

IF YOU'D STAYED SILENT...
HA HA HA!
NO ONE WOULD HAVE KNOWN YOUR IDENTITY.
PUNCH

PRIN-CESS!!
SHOW ME WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF!
LOOK AT ME, SYLVIA!!
SYLVIA
EW ...!
FROM EXCITEMENT, OR... SOMETHING ELSE?
CLINK
YOU'RE TREM-BLING.
SLASH

BOUNCE
SHRED
EEE-EEK!
GAH...!
SOME-THING SO TRIVIAL MAKES YOU COWER...?
Oh dear
LEARNING THAT THE YOUNGER SISTER OF THE WOMAN I PLAN TO DESTROY IS SO ORDINARY IS...DISAP-POINTING.

I THOUGHT I'D BE GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO LET YOU DIE AS A WARRIOR...
TOSS
BUT APPARENTLY YOU DON'T WARRANT THE HONOR.
WAIT!
TWITCH
PRIN-CESS...!
YOU HAVE MY THANKS, AVDOCHA.
.....!
WHAT?!

SHEEEW

SHEEEW

WH-WHAT IS THIS?
WHY ARE YOU SMILING LIKE THAT?
YOU AND MY SISTER, AND MY STUPID CLASS-MATES...
HAVE ALL SHOWN ME WHAT A WEAK-WILLED PRINCESS I WAS.
.....!!

YOU CUT ME WITH YOUR BLADE...
AND KILLED ME.
THE OLD ME.
OH?
THEN WHO IS THIS "NEW" YOU STANDING BEFORE ME, HMM?
I AM SYLVIA LAUTREAMONT...
AND I HOLD MY HEAD UP HIGH!

I AM ON THE PATH TO BECOMING A PALADIN!

.....
HA!
A PALADIN ...?
KA-A-A-A-N-N-N
EASIER SAID THAN DONE!
SO YOU PLAN TO SURPASS VERONICA--MY NEMESIS?!
HA HA
BUT IF YOU DIE HERE, YOU'LL NEVER REACH YOUR GOAL!
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, MY NAKED LITTLE PALADIN?!
HA HA HA HA HA!

WHA--?!
ARK DRAGO-NARS?!

HEY! WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG, REBECCA?
SORRY ABOUT THAT, ASH.

MY NAKEDNESS DOESN'T MATTER AT ALL.
A RULER IS CLOTHED IN THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM.
THAT'S WHY THEY CAN ALWAYS STAND TALL.

I FINALLY UNDERSTAND...
WHY SEEING ASH PUT MY MIND AT EASE.
A KING'S STRENGTH LIES IN THE GIVING AND RECEIVING OF TRUST!
THAT IS...
THE MOTTO OF MY FAMILY!!!

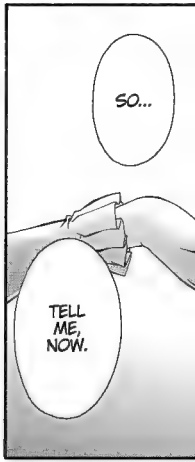
星刻の竜騎士

WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE.
WELCOME BACK, SLEEPING BEAUTY.
I'M DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
Chapter XIV
Audocha the Executioner: Part 3

AND YET YOUR PRESENCE IS PROOF THAT...
YOU AND THAT BOY OF YOURS ARE EVEN CLOSER THAN BEFORE.

I NEVER WANTED TO HAVE TO COME HERE AGAIN.
OH, REALLY?

WHAT EXACTLY...
WAS THE REQUEST HE MADE OF YOU?


SO...
TELL ME, NOW.

THE "NEGOTIATOR" WAS A DISTRACTION, WAS HE...
WHILE YOU MOUNTED A SURPRISE ATTACK?
I SEE.
I SUPPOSE HOLLOWING OUT THE GROUND IS A TRIVIAL THING FOR AN ARK DRAGONAR'S MAGICAL WEAPONS.
SHIFT
GAE BULG...
CALAD-BOLG...!

F-WAAASH
GLENN IS DEFINITELY...
REBECCA'S EQUAL IN POWER!
AMAZING!
BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU EXPECT FROM ARK DRAGONARS.
!
SCURRY SCURRY

ARK DRAGONARS CAN'T USE THEIR FULL POWER IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS.
BUT SEE WHAT I'M HOLDING?
WAIT!
IT'S MY VICTORY!
THE EXPLO-SIVES ...!!!
DON'T LET HER PRESS THAT BUTTON, ASH!
YOU UNARMED FOOLS THINK YOU CAN STOP ME?!
GET THEM, BASI-LISK!!!
GAH --!
PRIN-CESS!!

I'M NOT SOME COWARD WHO'S HELPLESS WITHOUT AN ARK!
DON'T BE AFRAID!
"THEN YOUR VICTORY TRULY WAS NOTHING BUT SHEER LUCK."
LOOOOM
ASH!
WE HAVE TO FALL BACK!
IF BEING UNARMED IS ALL IT TAKES TO SCARE ME...
HOW CAN I EVER STAND TALL IN FRONT OF MY PRINCESS?!!

DIE
!!!
ASH...
SPLATTER
SPLAT
!!

WHAT THE BASILISK'S DONE TO HIM!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE...
I CAN'T LOOK!
.....!!
LIKE I SAID...
IT'S ALL GOOD.
YOU'RE ALIVE ...!!!
YOU CAN LEAVE THIS TO ME.

YEAH...
IT WAS A CLOSE CALL, THOUGH!!
IS... IS THAT ARMOR ON YOUR HANDS AN ARK?!
IT CAN'T BE! NO ONE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT--
ROAR
OF COURSE NOT!

EVEN FOR ME...
IT'S STILL SOMETHING I'M GET-TING USED TO!!!

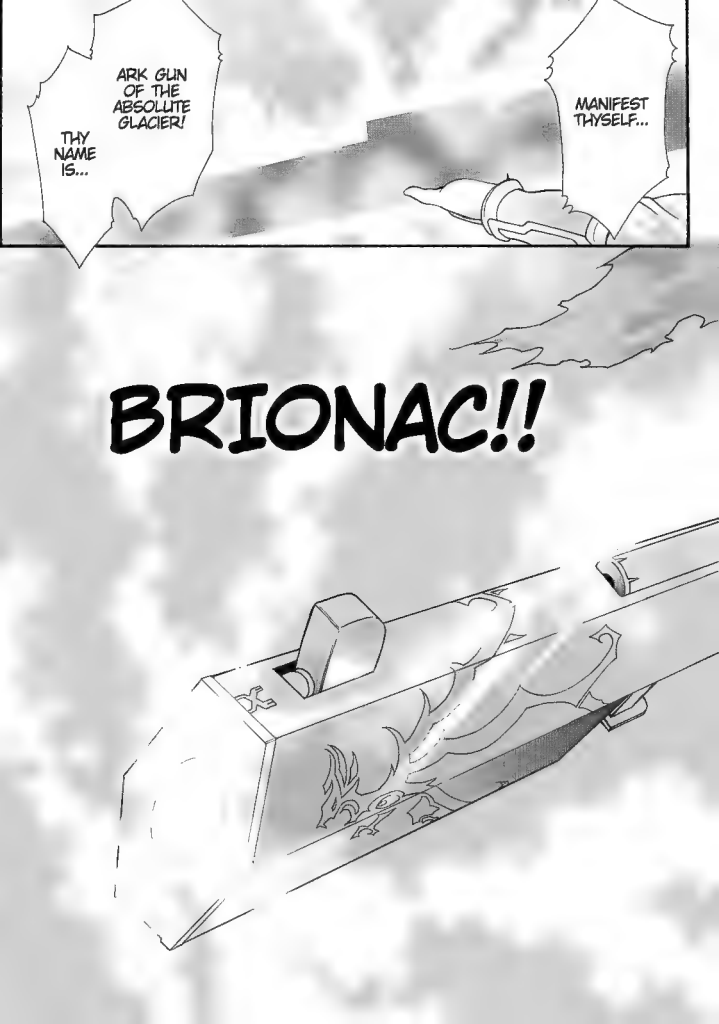
OH--!
MAGNI-FICENT! HE'S LIKE...
A SILVER KNIGHT...!
NH...
HEY! DON'T GET TOO FULL OF YOURSELF! THIS WASN'T YOU!!
I KNOW, ECO. YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
AND THIS HAS ALL THE PROPERTIES I WAS HOPING FOR! IT'S AMAZING!
OF COURSE IT IS!! YOUR POWER IS MY POWER!!
YOU'RE RIGHT!!!
CLENCH

WE ARE...
FLASH
THE SILVER KNIGHT!!!
ROOOAR
GRRR...
WH-WHAT'S WRONG, BASILISK?!
CLINK...
THERE'S A GOOD BOY.
THE THING ABOUT BEASTS IS, THEY CAN TELL WHEN THEY'RE OUT-MATCHED.

EDDDRR!
AND...
I AM STRONGER THAN YOU!!
IF YOU'RE PART OF THE DRAGON FAMILY, ANSWER ME, BASILISK!!!
THAT'S RIGHT.
THERE'S A GOOD BOY.
AHH!
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO WITH MY KUU-KUU?!
"KUU-KUU"? THAT'S A CUTE LITTLE NICKNAME, ISN'T IT?
ALL RIGHT! HEAD FOR THE ALTAR, KUU-KUU!!
W-WAIT!
TROMP
TROMP
I'M YOUR MASTER--!
COUGH, COUGH..

THY NAME IS...
ARK GUN OF THE ABSOLUTE GLACIER!
MANIFEST THYSELF...
I'M SHUTTING DOWN YOUR ASSAULT ON OUR TOWN!!
WITH THIS ICE ARK...
BRIONAC!!

I'M SHUTTING DOWN YOUR ASSAULT ON OUR TOWN!!
WITH THIS ICE ARK...


MANIFEST THYSELF...
ARK GUN OF THE ABSOLUTE GLACIER!
THY NAME IS...
BRIONAC!!

VWOOOM
CRK
CRK
FLASH
CRK
CRK
CRK

BY YOUR WILL!!
LET'S GET THE HOSTAGES OUT OF HERE!!
CRK
WH-WHAT--?!
ASH?!
LEAP
EVERY-THING'S FREEZING OVER...!
CRK
FWP
SLASH
THMP

AVDO-CHAAAA!!
CRK
CRK
KRAK
AHH --!
FROZEN
I WAS ONLY--
……
W-WAIT --!
CRK
CRK
CRK
EEP!
YOU FROZE THE EXPLOSIVES WITH YOUR ICE POWER?
HOW'D YOU THINK OF THAT, ASH?
WE'VE FINISHED SWEEPING THE PLACE.
……

I SEE! I BET THAT WAS THE TALE OF THE HEAVENLY DRAGON KNIGHT.
HMM.
I THINK THAT'S THE ONE WITH A HERO CALLED THE SILVER KNIGHT WHO DEFEATS A MECHANICAL DRAGON BY FREEZING IT SOLID, RIGHT?
UH... ACTUALLY, I GOT IT FROM A BOOK I FLIPPED THROUGH BACK ON THE SILVANUS.
YOU'VE READ IT, REBECCA?! I THOUGHT IT WAS A BOOK FOR LITTLE GIRLS.
I READ LOTS OF BOOKS LIKE THAT WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL!
O-OH...
UN-NH...
OH!
LOOKS LIKE OUR TROUBLESOME FRIEND IS WAKING UP, ASH.
!
BLINK
OHHHH!
ASH! IT'S YOU~! ♡
GLOMP

I DECIDED THAT MY FIRST TIME WOULD BE ON THE ALTAR.
AND, WELL...
I SAW EVERYTHING!! I WATCHED YOU USE YOUR GLORIOUS ICE MAGIC TO SAVE US ALL! YOU'RE THE ONE TRUE SILVER KNIGHT...!
HEY--!
UH... YEAH?
THWAP
ACK!
BLUSH
SO IF YOU'D BE SO KIND...
PLEASE BLESS ME WITH THE GIFT OF YOUR SEED--!! ♡
SLIP
THANKS FOR THE BACKUP.
LEAVE HER TO ME.

FADE
THE ARK...
PRINCESS?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH, IT'S YOU.
ARE YOU INJURED? LOOKS LIKE I NEEDED YOU TO SAVE ME AGAIN.
NAH, THAT WAS ALL THANKS TO BCO, NOT ME.
AND IF YOU ASK ME, YOU WERE THE MOST INTIMIDATING ONE HERE.
!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABO--
OH!
WOBBLE

POUCH
!
Phew...
YOU OKAY?
S-SORRY! I, UH, JUST GOT A TINY BIT WEAK IN THE KNEES...
WHAT ARE YOU--
WHAT AM I DOING? I WAS PLANNING TO PIGGYBACK YOU HOME, THAT'S WHAT.
DON'T BE SILLY.
I... I'M GOING TO BECOME A PALADIN, REMEMBER?
WELL, SURE. BUT YOU SAID IT YOURSELF...
PART OF BEING A RULER--OR A PALADIN--IS TRUSTING IN YOUR FRIENDS, RIGHT?

I DID SAY THAT, DIDN'T I?
TWO NOW.
I GUESS THIS MAKES...

TWO BOYS WHO'VE CARRIED ME ON THEIR BACKS--WHO I'LL NEVER, EVER FORGET.
THE NEXT DAY...

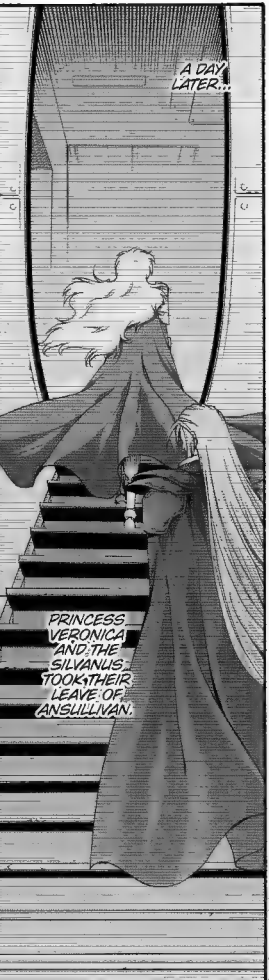
A-AVDO-CHA...
THE EXECU-TIONER ?!!
HMPH!
WHAT THE --?!!
PRINCESS, WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?!
F-FUNNY STORY, ASH...
IT TURNS OUT MY SISTER PLAYED US BOTH.

DASH
.....!!
AVDOCHA!!
HUH?!
HMPH!
DON'T THINK THIS MEANS I WON'T COME FOR YOUR HEAD ONE DAY!
THAN A LITTLE CHARADE I ARRANGED TO TRAIN MY SISTER.
CASUAL
YOUR ENTIRE DILEMMA WAS NOTHING MORE...
I SURRENDERED TO VERONICA WHEN SHE DEFEATED ME IN BATTLE.
BUT EVERYTHING I DO IS SO I CAN FIND MY YOUNGER SISTER, WHO'S MISSING!
NOTHING CAN KILL ME UNTIL I FIND HER!
UH... I SEE.
AND YOU PUT THAT ALL TOGETHER, REBECCA?
I HAD MY SUSPICIONS. AFTER ALL, AVDOCHA THE EXECUTIONER IS KNOWN FOR THE SUBTLETY OF HER PLANS.
SO WHEN THIS CRUDE ATTACK JUST HAPPENED TO INCLUDE SYLVIA, IT WAS TOO MUCH A COINCIDENCE.

I am on the path to becoming a paladin!!
THANKS TO YOUR ASSISTANCE, MY HELPLESS LITTLE SISTER GOT A BIT STRONGER!
COMMS OPERATOR!! PLAY THAT BACK AGAIN!!
AAAAHHH!!!
I am on the path to becom-ing—
S-SISTER--!!!
HEH!
WAIT... DON'T TELL ME--
HUH ...?
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I LISTEN, IT NEVER GETS OLD.

TEE HEE!
ASH, DO YOU KNOW HOW THE SILVANUS GOT ITS NAME?
HUH? UM, NO...
H-hey!
DON'T YOU THINK "SILVANUS" SOUNDS AN AWFUL LOT LIKE..."SYLVIA"?
AHA!
SO BASI-CALLY...

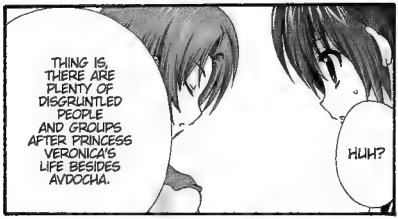
THE TRUTH IS YOU COMPLETELY ADORE YOUR BABY SISTER, ISN'T IT?
HUSH, BRAT!


A DAY LATER...
PRINCESS VERONICA AND THE SILVANUS TOOK THEIR LEAVE OF ANSULLIVAN.

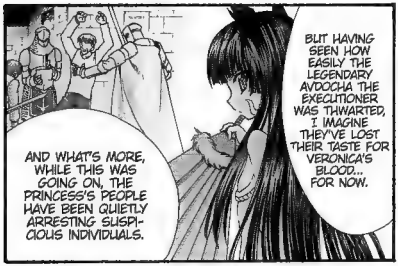
OH! SO THEN...
WHAT ABOUT HER BE-TROTHAL?

HMM... I SUPPOSE I'LL LET IT GO, AS A REWARD FOR HAVING DISCOVERED HER SPINE.
BUT IF SHE STARTS DEVOLVING BACK INTO A SPINELESS LITTLE THING--

YES!
I ACCEPT YOUR CHAL-LENGE!!


THING IS, THERE ARE PLENTY OF DISGRUNTLED PEOPLE AND GROUPS AFTER PRINCESS VERONICA'S LIFE BESIDES AVDOCHA.
HUH?

ASH...
YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THIS WAS ALL NOTHING BUT A CHARADE, DO YOU?


BUT HAVING SEEN HOW EASILY THE LEGENDARY AVDOCHA THE EXECUTIONER WAS THWARTED, I IMAGINE THEY'VE LOST THEIR TASTE FOR VERONICA'S BLOOD... FOR NOW.
AND WHAT'S MORE, WHILE THIS WAS GOING ON, THE PRINCESS'S PEOPLE HAVE BEEN QUIETLY ARRESTING SUSPICIOUS INDIVIDUALS.

I KNEW IT.
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL EVER COMPARE TO HER---!

SHE'S AMAZING ---!
MY SISTER IS INCREDIBLY WISE! WITH ONE MOVE, SHE DEALT WITH SEVERAL PROBLEMS!

HOW...
HOW CAN YOU STILL SAY THAT?!!
NAH.
I THINK YOU'LL DO JUST FINE, PRINCESS.
BECAUSE I HEARD WHAT SHE SAID...
RIGHT BEFORE THEY TOOK OFF.
"SYLVIA!!"

"BECOME A PALADIN ONE DAY..."
"AND MAKE ME KNEEL BEFORE YOU!!"

"BECOME A PALADIN ONE DAY..."
"AND MAKE ME KNEEL BEFORE YOU!!"

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MAGICAL BEASTS.
Chapter XV
After-school Monster Hunter

IT BECOMES A CREATURE KNOWN AS A MUTANT.
THE BEAST IS TRANSFORMED BY CONTACT WITH THE CRYSTAL'S POWER.

TO DARE VENTURE ABOVE THE SURFACE AND REVEAL THEMSELVES. NORMALLY, THAT IS...
MOST OF THE TIME, THE MUTANTS ARE TOO AFRAID OF THE DRAGONS...

IF AN ORDINARY BEAST LIVING BELOW THE ACADEMY...
COMES INTO CONTACT WITH A DRAGON CRYSTAL DEEP WITHIN THE EARTH...

SUMMER-TIME.
THE ACADEMY'S DRAGONS HAVE ALL BEEN LAID LOW BY A COLD THAT AFFECTS ONLY THEM.
EEEEE!
HEE HEE HEE!
THE WATER FEELS SOOOO GOOD!
CALM DOWN, JESSICA.
YOU'RE NOT A CHILD.

DO TRY TO REMEMBER THAT WE'RE ONLY HAVING SWIMMING CLASSES BECAUSE...
WE CAN'T HAVE OUR NORMAL CLASSES WHEN LANCELOT AND THE OTHER DRAGONS ARE ALL SICK.
WELL, THEN, I'M GRATEFUL TO THE DRAGONS!
OOOH, IF ONLY ASH WERE HERE RIGHT NOW...!
E-EXCUSE ME?
ASH IS ALL YOU EVER TALK ABOUT LATELY! "ASH DID THIS!" "ASH DOES THAT!"
BITING
BOOONG
BITING
THERE, CLASS IS OVER. LET'S GO.

HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON?
I KNOW I LEFT MY PANTIES HERE! WHERE ARE THEY?
HMM...?

NOOOO! THEY'RE GONE!!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING --!!

EVEN YOURS, JESSICA?!
AS ARE MINE!
COULD WE BE LOOKING AT A PANTY THIEF?!

PRINCESS! MY UNDERWEAR ARE MISSING!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
MINE TOO!!

I KEEP FEELING A DRAFT.
AH..!
BUT FIRST...
I DON'T SEE ANYONE AROUND!
AT LUNCH BREAK.
WHILE EVERYONE IS ON BREAK AT NOON...
WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE DORMS FOR NEW PANTIES! THIS IS INTOLERABLE.
PRINCESS?
GAHHH!
I should notify the council president.
But of the thirty of us, nineteen girls were robbed. That's brazen!
So you were spared, Lynette...
I was lucky.
Mine are still here.

WHY AM I...
EVEN MORE AWARE OF THE BREEZE DOWN THERE WITH HIM HERE?
fwfwair
fwfwair
WHY'D WE HAVE TO RUN INTO HIM NOW...?
Ash!
O-OH, ASH! FANCY MEETING YOU HERE!
HEY, YOU'RE ALL FLUSHED. GETTING SICK?
?
N-N-NO, I'M FINE!
I JUST WANTED TO REST FOR A LITTLE BIT!
ECO'S GOT THAT COLD THAT ALL THE DRAGONS HAVE.
WE WERE JUST GONNA GET HER ANOTHER COLD MASK.
THE FIRST ONE BLEW AWAY WHEN SHE SNEEZED.
mumble mumble
AWWW...! I WANTED TO GO SWIMMING TOO!
YEAH, BUT YOU'RE STILL A DRAGON!
UH...
THIS IS BAD

YOU KNOW, WE SHOULD JUST COME CLEAN!
EH?!
YOU SEE, RIGHT NOW NEITHER OF US IS WEARING PAN--
URK!
YOU'RE SHAMELESS!
I-IT'S NOTHING, ASH!!
ER... OKAY?
tcrrch tcrrch
.....!!
ECO, DON'T!
HWAA...
ARE YOU ABOUT TO---?
HWA-AH...
I'VE GOTTA STOP--
GAH!
GHWOOOO!
HWACHOOOO!

WEARING...!
THEY'RE NOT...

FOR AN ILLUSTRIOUS, RESPECTED SCHOOL LIKE OUR ACADEMY...
BEATEN
Oh, Ash, you're so dreamy!
THE SITUATION IS LITTERLY INTOLERABLE!!
WHAM
A PANTY THIEF IS ROBBING OUR FEMALE STUDENTS!!!
WE HAVE URGENT BUSINESS TODAY!!
SO ONE OF THE MALE STUDENTS IS RESPONSIBLE...?
glance
NO WAY!
THAT HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED.
BUT THREE CLASSES HAVE BEEN HIT--NEARLY FIFTY VICTIMS IN ALL!
THAT SAID, PLEASE DON'T BE ANXIOUS!

I, THE SCARLET EMPRESS...
WILL TAKE VENGEANCE FOR MY PRECIOUS UNDER-CLASSMEN!!
BUT WE MUST BE CAU-TIOUS!
SO FROM NOW ON...
NOD
IF REBECCA'S ON IT, I DO FEEL BETTER.
I ALMOST FEEL BAD FOR THE CULPRIT.

FIRST-YEAR YUNIOS.
AFTER-NOON, 4TH PERIOD.
BE SURE TO REPORT BACK IN DETAIL!

SECOND-YEAR YUNIOS.
AFTER-NOON, 1ST PERIOD.

WHILE STUDENTS ARE HAVING SWIMMING LESSONS...
THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL TAKE TURNS PROVIDING SECURITY!

THE NATURE OF THE SPOILS.
MOST FEMALE SENIOR STUDENTS WEAR SILK PANTIES.
THE THIEF HASN'T STRUCK AGAIN.
BUT OUR EFFORTS WEREN'T TOTALLY IN VAIN!
AS OF NOW, THE ONLY CLASSES AFFECTED...
HAVE BEEN SENIOS CLASSES.
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?
NO STUDENTS WHO WEAR COTTON UNDERWEAR WERE ROBBED.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT'S TRUE OF LYNETTE.
NOW, WE DON'T YET KNOW WHY THAT'S THE CASE...
BUT I SUSPECT THINGS WILL BECOME CLEARER TOMORROW.

THAT NIGHT...
AFTER ALL, MANY OF THE THIRD-YEAR SENIOS GIRLS HAVE SWIMMING CLASS...
AND MOST OF THEM WILL HAVE SILK PANTIES!
Y-YES, MA'AM!
ASH AND I WILL COVER TOMORROW'S CLASSES! OKAY?
AND BESIDES...
THERE'S SOMETHING NAGGING AT ME ABOUT ALL THIS.

TMP ひた
TMP ひた
TMP ひた
TMP ひた
PLIP ふっ
투두두두

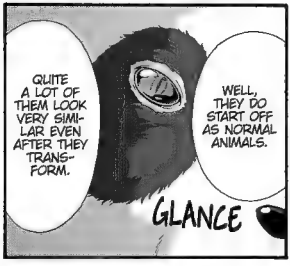
IT'S ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE THIEF.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING, AND IF I'M RIGHT...
THEN OUR OPPONENT IS...
!
RUSTLE
SPLOOSH
THE MAGIC I'VE BEEN SENSING SINCE THIS MORNING!!
IS COMING FROM OVER THERE...

THE NEXT DAY.
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE SHOWING UP, REBECCA.
HEH! YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T NEED TO ONLY LOOK AROUND THE POOL.. YOU CAN LOOK INTO IT.
U-UH, WELL...
I MEAN...
RIGHT NOW, NO ONE CAN COMPLAIN IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY.
TEE HEE! JUST KIDDING, YOU PURE-HEARTED LITTLE THING.
C'MON, REBECCA...

HEY, DID YOU HEAR--
CLUNK
IT CAME FROM INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM! HURRY, ASH!!
DASH
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
DOES THE THIEF HAVE A DRAGON CRYSTAL?!
HEY! THIS IS...
COMES FROM A MAGICAL BEAST!!
AS I SUSPECTED, THIS OMINOUS ENERGY...
MAGIC!!

WHAM
LET'S GO!!!
GLINT
THERE IT IS!!!
THAT'S THE--
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
YOU MEAN THE ONES THAT PEOPLE SAY LIVE UNDER THE SCHOOL AND EVOLVE CONSTANTLY BECAUSE OF THE CRYSTALS?!!
EXACTLY! LAST NIGHT I FELT THE SAME KIND OF POWER EMANATING FROM A BUILDING WITH A BASEMENT.
THEY'RE AFRAID OF THE DRAGONS, BUT SINCE THE DRAGONS ARE ALL SICK, THIS ONE MUST HAVE SEIZED ITS OPPORTUNITY!
Y-YES, MA'AM!
SO BE CAUTIOUS, OKAY?!

MAGICAL... UH... BEAST?
pant pant
MUNCH MUNCH
CRAM CRAM


QUITE A LOT OF THEM LOOK VERY SIMILAR EVEN AFTER THEY TRANSFORM.
WELL, THEY DO START OFF AS NORMAL ANIMALS.
GLANCE

I...I WAS EXPECTING SOMETHING SCARIER...
IT'S ADORABLE!
.....
It's so tiny!

BUT THAT SAID...
LEAP
UGH --!
IT'S FAST!
GAH!
RE-BECCA! HEY--!!
IT'S--
I DON'T LIKE RE-SORTING TO VIO-LENCE!
BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M SO MAD I CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT!!

BLAZE RIPPER!!!
YOU HUMILIATED MY CUTE LITTLE UNDER-CLASSMEN!
AND YOU WILL PAY FOR THAT!!
ORACLE!!

YOU HUMILIATED MY CUTE LITTLE UNDER-CLASSMEN!
AND YOU WILL PAY FOR THAT!!
ORACLE!!

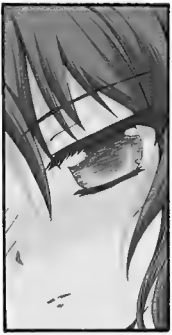
BLAZE
RIPPER!!!

SIZZLE
FWIIIIII!
IT'S RUNNING AWAY!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S HEADING BACK UNDERGROUND.
NOW, THAT'S STRANGE.
I FEEL SO... UNEASY.
THAT WAS AMAZING, REBECCA!!
.....

AH...!
AND...
THAT WAS A DRAW, NOT A VICTORY.
I FEEL IT IN MY HEART.
TREMBLE
THIS FEELING OF... OF HAVING SOMETHING SWEEP RIGHT OVER ME!
I'VE NEVER FELT THIS BEFORE--!
AHHHH--!
TENDER

GOOD WORK, ASH.
IF A LITTLE THING LIKE THIS MAKES ME SHAKE, I DON'T DESERVE TO BE CALLED THE SCARLET EMPRESS.

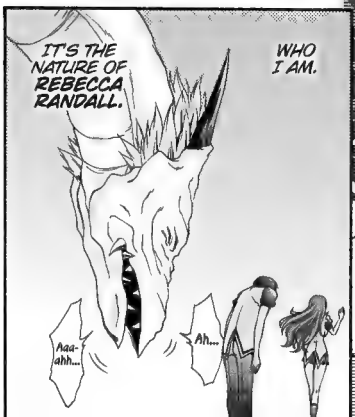
REBECCA?
NOTH-ING.



PERK
YEAH!

SMILE
NOW EVERYONE CAN HAVE A NICE, RELAXING SUMMER!

THAT IS...

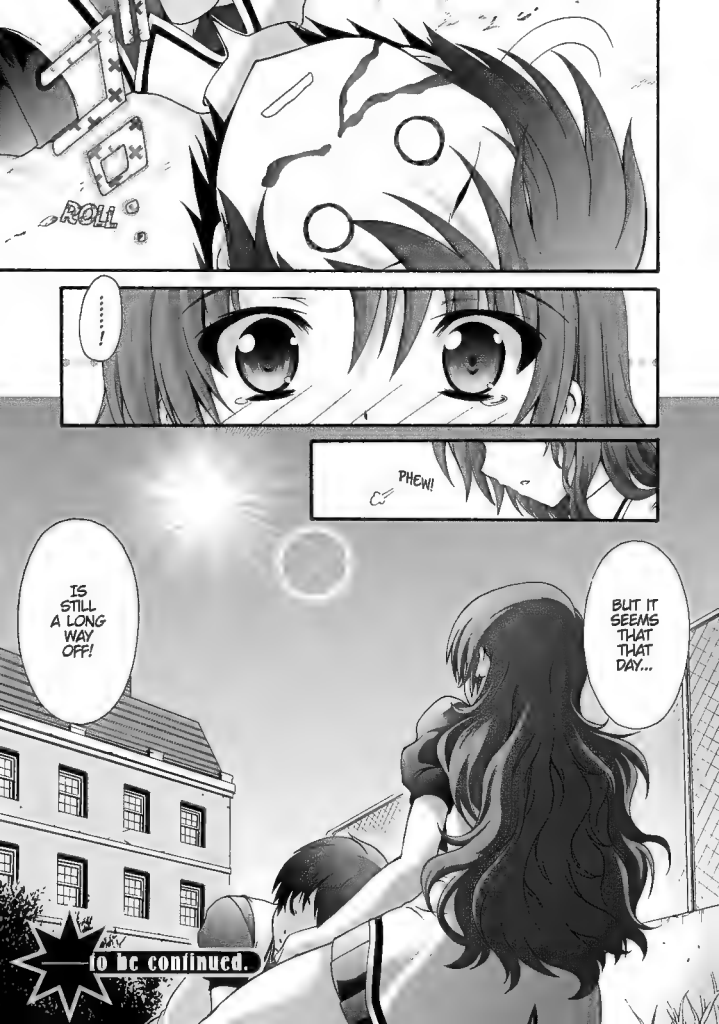

IT'S THE NATURE OF REBECCA RANDALL.
WHO I AM.
Aaa-ahh...
Ah...

I'VE GOTTEN THROUGH FAR WORSE SITUATIONS.
EVERY-THING WILL BE FINE.
WELL, I'LL SEE YOU, ASH.

ACHOOOOOO!
FWOOOM

.....

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
BEING SEEN LIKE THIS BY A MALE STUDENT?! ME?
AFTER THIS...
HOW CAN I HOLD MY HEAD UP HIGH AGAIN?!
WAIT, THOUGH.
I'M STILL A WOMAN, AFTER ALL!
IF IT HAD TO BE SOMEONE...
I'D RATHER HAVE IT BE ASH...!


ROLL
.....!
PHEW!
BUT IT SEEMS THAT THAT DAY...
IS STILL A LONG WAY OFF!
to be continued.

星刻の竜騎士

Side Story
Rebecca Dreams Of...

WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS?
WHO...
I'M THE SCARLET EMPRESS! CORNERING ME LIKE THIS IS--
NOW, WE'RE GONNA HAVE A LITTLE FUN.
A-ASH, IS THAT YOU?!
YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL LIKE THAT, REBECCA.
GET HER, ECO!

AH...!
UNH...
THIS...
THIS IS...!
I'LL BURN IT INTO YOUR MEMORY.
UHH--
ALL MY... STRE-NGTH.
AAAAH !!!
AH...!
.....

THE NEXT DAY.
AND THAT CONCLUDES TODAY'S MEETING.
SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, THAT WAS A SORRY SHOW YESTERDAY!
I GUESS NONE OF IT WAS REAL.
BUT THAT DREAM ...!
IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE THAT HE MAKES ME WANT...?
HMM ...?
DO YOU HAVE A FEVER OR SOMETHING, REBECCA?
YOUR FACE IS ALL RED.
HMM?
NO, NOT AT ALL.
I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOU, ASH.

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

Afterword

Thank you so much for picking up the third volume of *Dragonar Academy*!

Rebecca played a huge role this time around.

This volume marks the first time that the manga version has included an original side story, and I couldn't be happier! I'll keep working hard on this, so please keep supporting *Dragonar* as we carry on!

RAN

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RAN

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